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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/218,783	12/22/1998	PEGGY M. STUMER	98-P-7977-US	2633

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SIEMENS CORPORATION
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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THJUAN P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2642

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/218,783

Applicant(s)

STUMER ET AL.

Examiner

Thjuan P Knowlin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 1998 and 08 May 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

1. The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).
2. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Deryugin et al (US 6,373,836).
3. In regards to claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 26, Deryugin discloses a group pickup system and method in a communication network (Fig. 1 and element 121) having one or more servers (Fig. 1 and Fig. 4-5 and elements 113, 114, 120, 124, and 1132), comprising: an invite request unit to invoke the group pickup system; a group pickup request unit responsive to said invite request unit to establish a connection to a group pickup destination to enable a caller station to be pickup up from said destination, said destination being a user selectable location located on any server anywhere within the

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network; and a retrieval request unit to connect a call pickup station with said caller station (col. 10-11 lines 58-8, col. 25-26 lines 52-2, col. 26 lines 8-39, and col. 26-27 lines 66-15).

4. In regards to claims 2, 10, 13, and 25, Deryugin discloses the system and method, further including an exception handler adapted to handle failures in the group pickup system (col. 2 lines 6-28).

5. In regards to claim 5, Deryugin discloses the system, wherein said network failure may include excessive network congestion (col. 26 lines 40-54).

6. In regards to claims 6 and 7, Deryugin discloses the system, wherein said network failure may include a vacant number (col. 15-16 lines 62-13).

7. In regards to claims 15, 21, and 22, Deryugin discloses a system and method for enabling group pickup in a communications network having more than one server comprising: a request unit to enable operation of the group pickup system when there is an unanswered call at a member station; a connect unit responsive to said request unit to make local and/or remote connections to various group member stations within the network which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations; and a call establishing unit for establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station (col. 15-16 lines 62-13).

8. In regards to claims 16, 17, 18, 20, 23, and 24, Deryugin discloses a system, in which the request unit comprises: an automatic mode unit (element 112) that automatically searches for a group member station that may be available to pick up an unanswered call (col. 5-6 lines 59-14); and a manual mode unit that is initiated by a

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group member who is aware of an unanswered call at another station and searches for an alerting group member station (col. 12 lines 37-47 and col. 15-16 lines 62-13).

9. In regards to claim 19, Deryugin discloses a system, further comprising a queue/dequeue unit for selecting a group member from a database (col. 13 lines 10-39).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Dickerman et al (US 6,188,761) teach a system and method for providing operator and customer services. Reynolds et al (US 5,768,360) teach a method for routing calls outside of a carriers network based on characteristics of the call. Dugan et al (US 6,363,411) teach an intelligent network for providing intelligent call processing and service execution for call events received at the switches and requiring call processing services.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P Knowlin whose telephone number is (703) 308-1727. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30pm.

12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (703)305-4731. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

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13. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Thjuan P. Knowlin
May 1, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ahmad Matar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ahmad" and last name "Matar" clearly distinguishable.

AHMAD MATAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600